

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the present application.

Unity of Invention

The Examiner has required election in the present application. The Examiner has set forth the groupings of the claims and the explanation of the subject matter of each group of claims as given below:

Group I, claims 1, 3-5 and 14-16, drawn to a liquid crystal display (generic), having an optical laminate C (A_{Br}) which comprises a resin having negative birefringence (B_{Br}) and at least one layer comprising a transparent resin (C_{Br});

Group II, claims 2 and 10-13, drawn to a transparent resin (C_{Sp});

Group III, claims 6-9, drawn to resin having negative birefringence (B_{Sp}); and

Group IV, claims 17-19, drawn to a liquid crystal display device (generic) which uses at least one sheet (D_{Br}) and comprising a liquid crystal cell (E_{Br}).

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1, 3-5 and 14-16.

Applicants were confused by the Examiner's description of the subject matter of each of Groups I-IV. Specifically, it was unclear what the terms " (A_{Br}) ", " (B_{Br}) ", " (C_{Sp}) ".... etc. refer to. However, during a telephone conversation between the Examiner and Applicants' representative, Garth M. Dahlen, Ph.D., Esq. (#43,575), the Examiner indicated that the subscript "Br" is short for "broad" and the subscript "Sp" is short for "specific" as used in MPEP 806.05(c).

Applicants now give details on the reasons for traversal.

The Examiner states at item number 2 on page 2 of the Restriction Requirement:

"The claimed optical laminate C is the technical feature common to groups I-IV; however, Arakawa (US 5,189,538) teaches the claimed optical laminate C (Title: 'Liquid Crystal Display Having Positive and Negative Birefringent Compensator Films.' Abstract, lines 1-4, and Abstract, lines 10-11, 'A liquid crystal display comprising a liquid crystal cell and a polarizing sheet is disclosed, in which (A) at least one film having light transmission properties, ...' And also 'and (B) at least one uniaxially stretched film of a polymer having a positive intrinsic birefringence and light transmission properties'). Hence, there is no single general inventive concept because Arakawa teaches the claimed optical laminate C."

However, it is noted that the film (A) having light transmission properties of Arakawa which corresponds to layer B of the present invention is uniaxially stretched (line 7 from the bottom of ABSTRACT of Arakawa), while layer B of the present invention has "substantially no orientation," layer B of the present invention is not stretched uniaxially. In fact, the PC film (Examples 1 to 4) and U-Polymer (Example 5) are all uniaxially stretched and thus Arakawa fails to disclose one of the important features, "at least one layer comprising a transparent resin, having substantially no orientation" as claimed in claim 1. The problem of using a layer of uniaxially stretched film such as Arakawa in a laminate is discussed on page 4, line 19 bridging to page 20, line 12 of the specification. Thus, Arakawa does not break unity of invention and all of the present claims recite a common special technical feature which amounts to a contribution over the prior art. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are related with the same special technical feature not disclosed by Arakawa and rejoinder of Groups II-IV with Group I is respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Garth M. Dahlen, Registration No 43,575 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

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- Attached is a Petition for Extension of Time.
- Attached hereto is the fee transmittal listing the required fees.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: March 3, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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